[12th December 1938

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" My point is, what is the use of giving a number of figures without our being able to ask supplementary questions on them?"

Mr. PRESIDENT:—" The hon. Member must be quick and smart enough to understand them."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" May I know, Sir, whether this amount of Rs. 30,000 represents the instalment of the loan taken from the Minor Ports Fund?"

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:" Rupees 30,000 was paid towards the repayment of the loan from the Mangalore Landing and Shipping Fund."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" Is it customary for separate ports to obtain loans from the Minor Ports Fund for their purposes?"

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Yes, Landing and Shipping committees sometimes take loans for their purpose from Government and those loans are given from the Minor Ports Fund."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" May I know, if there is a regular practice of giving loans for works from the Minor Ports Fund and not to give grants from their very considerable funds?"

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Sometimes full grants are given, sometimes half-grants are given and sometimes loans are also given according to the nature of the purpose for which such amounts are asked."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" If loans are given for particular ports from the fund, how can the Government correctly look after them if the accounts of all the ports are merged into one? I do not see how loans to ports can be separate if the accounts are merged in the whole bunch of ports?"

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" These loans are taken by the Landing and Shipping Committees and there are ten such committees functioning. Their accounts are kept separate. They borrow from the Minor Ports Fund and repay."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" If the Hon. Minister would give it, may I have the total amount of all the loans taken by the various Landing and Shipping Funds from the Minor Ports Fund?"

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" I cannot give the figure off-hand for all the loans taken from the Minor Ports Fund by the various Landing and Shipping Committees, how much was repaid and how much is still owing."

Minor ports and funds for their improvement and proposal, if any, to open a port at Point Calimere.

* 71-C *Q.*—Sri Rao Bahadur N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR: With reference to his speech in moving the Minor Ports

12th December 1938]

Fund Bill in the Madras Legislative Assembly, will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to place on the table—

(*a*) a statement showing the names of all the minor ports in the Presidency (districtwar);

(*b*) the surplus amount which each port had got to its credit on 1st April 1938;

(*c*) the estimated, or approximate amount, required for each port for improvement as per the proposal of the Presidency Port Officer, if any;

(*d*) whether Point Calimere (Tanjore district) is a recognized minor port or not; and

(*e*) if not, whether there is any proposal to open a port at Point Calimere, and if so, at what stage the matter stands?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) A statement [a] is laid on the table.

"(*b*) As the minor ports are worked on a consolidated basis, the particulars required by the hon. Member are not available.

"(*c*) A statement [a] showing the works and the amounts of estimates submitted by the Presidency Port Officer is laid on the table. These proposals are under examination.

"(*d*) In 1931 Point Calimere was closed for foreign trade and it is now a sub-port of Thopputhorai.

"(*e*) The Central Government has been addressed for opening Point Calimere Port for foreign trade and travel and their reply is awaited."

Provisions of Non-official Bill to amend the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act, 1885, *which was dropped by Government in* 1930.

* 71-D *Q*.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to refer to the answer given on 21st December 1937 to my unstarred question No. 5 as to the proposed legislation for amending or replacing the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act, 1885 (III of 1885), and to state—

(*a*) whether the proposed legislation contemplates the amalgamation of the provisions of that Madras Act and the Indian Ports Act, 1908, for the administration of the minor ports in this Province and the several funds thereunder;

(*b*) whether a Bill by a non-official Member of the Legislative Council for amending the abovementioned Madras Act was submitted to the Government Finance (Marine) through the Secretary to the Legislative Council in 1925 and under what circumstances that Bill was dropped;

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 82–83 infra.